3

Setup and Adjustment

NOTE: This Operator's Manual covers several models. Lawn Mower features vary by model. Not all features discussed (or engines pictured) in this manual are applicable to all Lawn Mower models.

NOTE: Stand behind the mower as if you were going to operate it. Your right hand corresponds to the right side of the mower; your left hand corresponds to the left side of the mower.

NOTE: Your mower is shipped with the handle in the higher height position.

NOTE: Each end of the lower handle must be placed in the same relative position.

IMPORTANT

This unit is shipped without gasoline or oil in the engine. Fill up gasoline and oil as instructed in the accompanying engine manual **BEFORE** operating your mower.

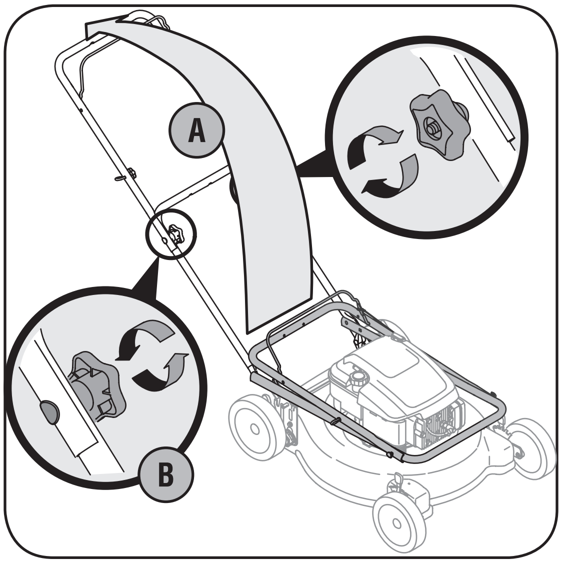

Figure 3-1: Unfold handle and tighten hardware.

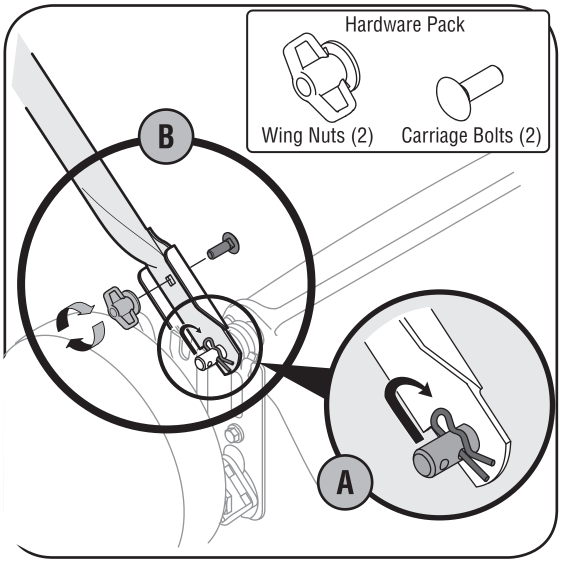

Figure 3-2: Secure lower handle to mounting brackets.

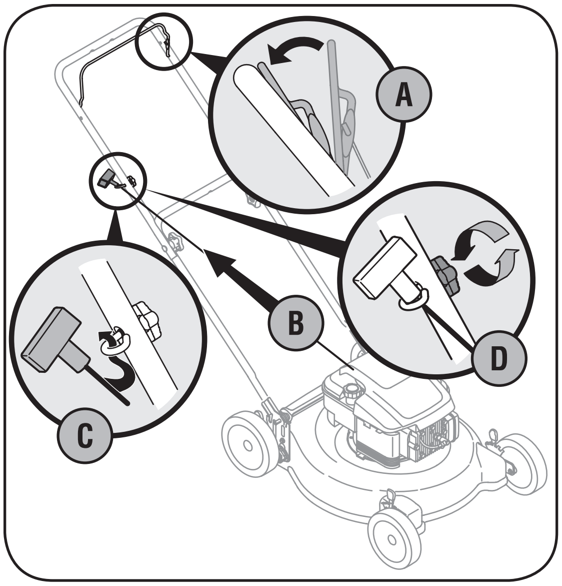

Figure 3-3: Pull recoil starter through rope guide and tighten.

IMPORTANT: This unit is shipped without gasoline or oil in the engine. Fill up gasoline and oil as instructed in the accompanying engine manual BEFORE operating your mower.

1. Remove any packing material which may be between upper and lower handles.
   a. Pull up and back on upper handle as shown in Figure 3-1. Make certain the lower handle is seated securely into the handle mounting brackets. Do not crimp cable while lifting the handle up.
   b. Tighten star knobs securing upper handle to lower handle. See Figure 3-1. Make sure that each carriage bolt is seated properly in the handle.
2. Locate the hairpin clip on the weld pin on each side lower handle.
   a. Remove hairpin clip from this hole. Using a pair of pliers, insert hairpin clip into the hole on pin closest to the bracket. See Figure 3-2. Repeat on other side.
   b. Insert a carriage bolt from the hardware pack into the upper hole on the handle mounting bracket as shown in Figure 3-2. Secure with one plastic wing nut, also included in the hardware pack. Repeat on other side.
3. The rope guide is attached to the right side of the upper handle. Loosen the wing nut which secures the rope guide. See Figure 3-3.
   a. Hold blade control against upper handle.
   b. Pull starter rope out of the engine. Release blade control handle.
   c. Slip starter rope into rope guide.
   d. Tighten wing nut.
4. Insert post on cable ties into holes provided on the lower handle. Pull cable tie tight and trim excess. See Figure 3-4.

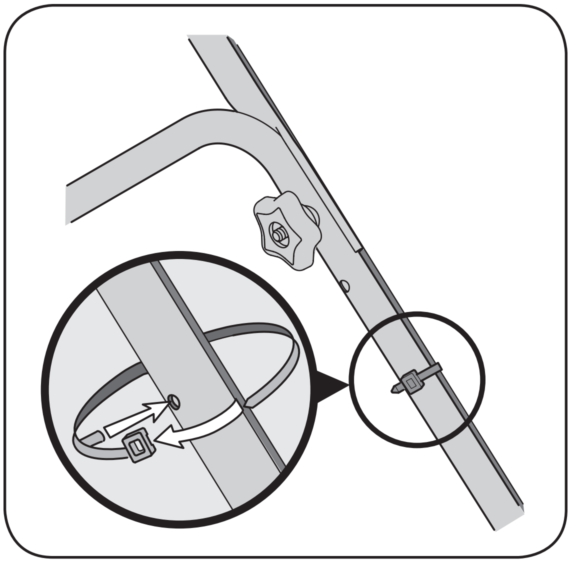

Figure 3-4: Secure cable to handle using cable ties.

5

Maintaining Your Lawn Mower

WARNING

Always stop engine, disconnect spark plug, and ground against engine before performing and type of maintenance on the mower.

IMPORTANT: Do not use a pressure washer or garden hose to clean your unit. These may cause damage to electric components, spindles, pulleys, bearings, or the engine. The use of water will result in shortened life and reduce serviceability.

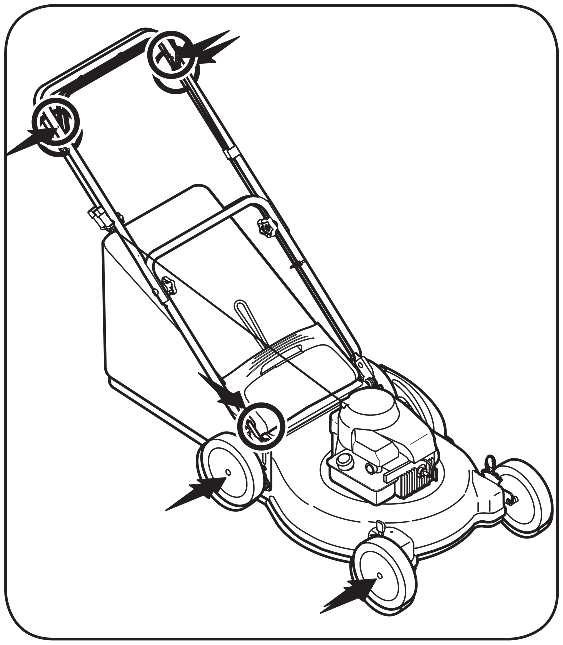

Figure 5-1: Areas to lubricate on the mower.

General Recommendations

- Always observe safety rules when performing any type of maintenance.
- The warranty on this lawn mower does not cover items that have been subjected to operator abuse or negligence. To receive full value from warranty, operator must maintain the lawn mower as instructed here.
- Changing of engine-governed speed will void engine warranty.
- All adjustments should be checked at least once each season.
- Periodically check all fasteners and make sure these are tight.

WARNING: Always stop engine, disconnect spark plug, and ground against engine before cleaning, lubricating, or performing any type of maintenance.

Lubrication

- Lubricate pivot points on the blade control at least once a season with light oil. The blade control must operate freely in both directions. See Figure 5-1.
- Lubricate the wheels at least once a season with light oil (or motor oil). If wheels are removed for any reason, lubricate surface of the pivot arm and inner surface of the wheel with light oil. See Figure 5-1.
- Lubricate the torsion spring and pivot point on the rear discharge door periodically with light oil to prevent rust. See Figure 5-1.
- Follow the accompanying engine manual for engine lubrication schedule and instructions.

Deck Care

WARNING: Never tip the mower more than 90° in any direction and do not leave the mower tipped for any length of time. Oil can drain into the upper part of the engine causing a starting problem.

Clean underside of the mower deck after each use to prevent build-up of grass clippings or other debris.

1. Disconnect spark plug wire. Drain gasoline from lawn mower, or place a piece of plastic under the gas cap.
2. Tip mower so that it rests on the housing. Keep the side with the air cleaner facing up. Hold mower firmly.
3. Scrape and clean the underside of the deck with a suitable tool. Do not spray with water.
4. Put the mower back on its wheels on the ground. If you had put plastic under the gas cap earlier, make sure to remove it now.

Engine Care

A list of key engine maintenance jobs required for good performance by the mower is given below. Follow the accompanying engine manual for a detailed list and instructions.

- Maintain oil level as instructed in engine manual.
- Service air cleaner every 25 hours under normal conditions. Clean every few hours under extremely dusty conditions. Poor engine performance and flooding usually indicates that the air cleaner should be serviced. To service the air cleaner, refer to the engine manual.
- Clean spark plug and reset the gap once a season. Spark plug replacement is recommended at the start of each mowing season. Check engine manual for correct plug type and gap specifications.
- Clean engine regularly with a cloth or brush. Keep the cooling system (blower housing area) clean to permit proper air circulation. Remove all grass, dirt and combustible debris from muffler area.

Blade Care

WARNING: When removing the cutting blade for sharpening or replacement, protect your hands with a pair of heavy gloves or use a heavy rag to hold the blade.

Periodically inspect the blade adapter for cracks, especially if you strike a foreign object. Replace when necessary. Follow the steps below for blade service.

1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug. Turn mower on its side making sure that the air filter and the carburetor are up.
2. Remove the bolt and the bell washer which hold the blade and the blade adapter to the engine crankshaft. See Figure 5-2.
3. Remove blade and adapter from the crankshaft.
4. The blade can be sharpened with a file or on a grinding wheel. Do not attempt to sharpen the blade while it is still on the mower. When sharpening the blade, follow the original angle of grind and grind each cutting edge equally to keep the blade balanced. Balance the blade on a round shaft screwdriver. Remove metal from the heavy side until it balances evenly.

WARNING: An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds. It may cause damage to mower, and could break causing personal injury.

5. Lubricate the engine crankshaft and slide the blade adapter onto the engine crankshaft.
6. Place the blade on the adapter such that the side of the blade marked “Bottom” (or with part number) faces the ground when the mower is in the operating position. Make sure that the blade is aligned and seated on the blade adapter flanges.
7. Place bell washer on the blade. Align notches on the blade bell support with small holes in blade.
8. Replace hex bolt and tighten hex bolt to torque: 450 in. lbs. min., 600 in. lbs. max.

To ensure safe operation of your mower, periodically check the blade bolt for correct torque.

Replacing Rear Flap

1. To remove rear flap, lift rear door, and press flap in on either side to remove from hole. See Figure 5-3.
2. Remove flap from opposite hole and replace with new flap in the opposite order and manner of removal.

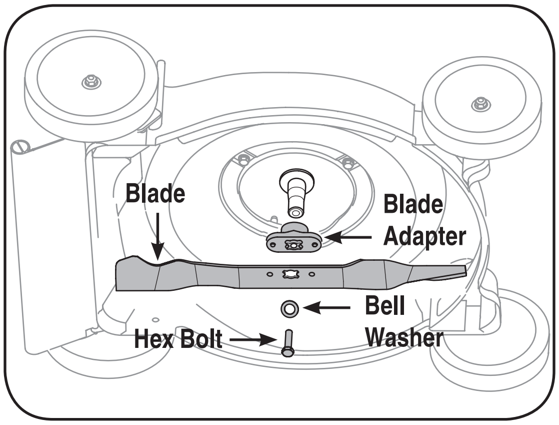

Figure 5-2: Remove blade and hardware.

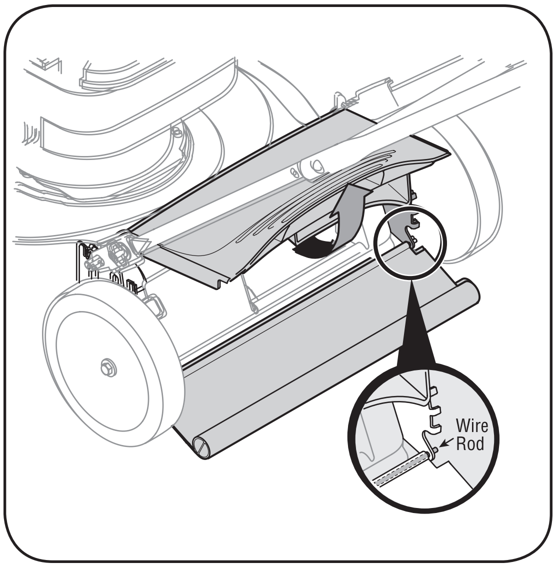

Figure 5-3: Removing the rear flap.

Off-Season Storage

The following steps should be taken to prepare your lawn mower for storage.

- Clean and lubricate mower thoroughly as described in the lubrication instructions.
- We do not recommend the use of a pressure washer or garden hose to clean your unit.
- Refer to engine manual for correct engine storage instructions.
- Coat mower’s cutting blade with chassis grease to prevent rusting.
- Store mower in a dry, clean area. Do not store next to corrosive materials, such as fertilizer.

When storing any type of power equipment in a poorly ventilated or metal storage shed, care should be taken to rust-proof the equipment. Using a light oil or silicone, coat the equipment, especially cables and all moving parts of your lawn mower before storage.

WARNING

When removing the cutting blade for sharpening or replacement, protect your hands with a pair of heavy gloves or use a heavy rag to hold the blade.

An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds. It may cause damage to mower, and could break causing personal injury.